

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 18 and 19, which have been cancelled. Since amended claim 17 is essentially claim 19 when it depended from claim 18, it is not believed that the new claim raises any new issues after final rejection. That there is a plurality of cartridge elements and that they are lined up in the longitudinal direction of the duct is shown in Figs. 7 and 8. In the amended claim, the spelling of elliptical has been corrected.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being obvious over a newly cited reference to Sexton (U.S. 2,853,153) in view of Delany of record, and newly cited references to Bandlow (U.S. 3,496,704), Textoris (U.S. 3,722,973) and Sigal (U.S. 2,695,831). The withdrawal of the rejection of the claims over Delany in view of Hagen et al. and Parvin is appreciated. However, it is believed that amended claim 17 is not obvious over the newly cited combination of references for the following reasons.

As disclosed in Sexton, housing 10 has an opening in front wall 16 into which filter cells 20 are placed, the housing being closed by sealing plate 27 after insertion of the cells. The cells are vertically stacked and an adjusting mechanism raises the cells by turning screw 24 so as to raise them. This requires time and labor to do so.

In contrast, in the present invention as discussed in the Second Embodiment of the Invention on pages 10-13 of the specification and as shown in Figs. 7-11, a plurality of cartridge elements are supported by sliding rails 13 which are slid into the bottom of an elongated duct 11 in its longitudinal direction. At the same time the rails and elements are lifted up by coupling devices 14 between the rails 13 and guiding

members 12 fixed to the bottom of the duct that move along inclined elliptical holes 12a in the guiding members to bring the elements up close to the lower side of the duct. To remove the elements the rails are moved in the opposite direction.

The plurality of cartridge elements are lined up in the longitudinal direction of the duct in holes 16a in a sliding member 16 that are supported by the sliding rails, so that they are between the rails and quickly set in place and removed with little effort when the sliding rails are slid into and out of the bottom of the duct.

None of these features are disclosed in Sexton. Rather, there the cells 20 are merely placed into the interior of the housing by hand and then raised in place by the adjusting mechanism. This is quite different from the sliding rails, elliptical holes in guiding members and sliding member arrangement of claim 17 for installing a plurality of cartridge elements at once in the longitudinal direction.

Nor is it seen where these features are disclosed in any of the secondary references to Delany, Bandlow, Textoris or Sigal.

As noted in the previous Reply, Delany has a filter/cartridge element in a drawer that is slid into a casing in a duct. It was noted then that the element is not lifted up when it is slid into the casing. If Delany is combined with Sexton, the mechanism of Delany for inserting the element may be substituted for the essentially manual insertion of the element in Sexton, but the combination still does not show the sliding rails, elliptical holes in the guiding members and the sliding member of the present invention for installing a plurality of cartridge elements lined up in the longitudinal direction in the bottom of an elongated duct. Delany may teach means for easy insertion and removal of the filter holding drawer (7) from the open front casing (6), but these are not the claimed means.

The Examiner then refers to Sigal and its teaching of inclined elliptical holes (slots 34 and 35). This perhaps shows similar means for raising and lowering a sliding mechanism, but even if this replaced the adjusting mechanism of Sexton, there still is not shown in the combination a sliding member supported by sliding rails that has holes extending its longitudinal direction and into which a plurality of plate-type cartridge elements can be inserted so that when the rails are slid into the duct, the cartridge elements are attached in the longitudinal direction to the bottom of an elongated duct.

It is believed Textoris and Bandlow suffer from the same deficiency. Namely, the failure to disclose the above-mentioned features missing in the combination of Sexton, Delany and Signal as well as in Delany.

It is believed amended claim 17 is patentable over the cited combination of references and its allowance is therefore requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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